THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

(ESTABLISHED 1877.)

"TO CARE FOR HIM WHO HAS BORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS."—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"THE VALIDITY OF THE PUBLIC DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES, AUTHORIZED BY LAW, INCLUDING DEBTS INCURRED FOR PAYMENT OF PENSIONS AND BOUNTIES FOR SERVICES IN SUPPRESSING INSURRECTION OR REBELLION, SHALL NOT BE QUESTIONED."—SEC. 4, ART. XIV, CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

"I CONSIDER IT THE ABLEST PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE SOLDIER PUBLISHED IN THE COUNTRY. I EARNESTLY COMMEND IT TO ALL COMRADES OF THE ORDER."
PAUL VANDERVOORT,
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, G. A. R.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

One Dollar per Year.

☞TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION—INVARIABLY CASH IN ADVANCE.—MONEY FORWARDED OTHERWISE THAN BY REGISTERED LETTER, POSTAL MONEY ORDER, OR DRAFT ON NEW YORK, WILL BE AT THE RISK OF THE SENDER, AS ALSO ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID TO AGENTS.

☞RENEWALS.—SUBSCRIBERS CAN ALWAYS ASCERTAIN THE DATE WHEN THEIR SUBSCRIPTION WILL EXPIRE BY LOOKING AT THE NUMBER ON THE WRAPPER OF THEIR PAPER, WHICH IS THE SAME AS THAT OF THE "WHOLE NUMBER" OF THE LAST ISSUE WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE.

☞ADDRESSES.—ADDRESSES WILL BE CHANGED AS OFTEN AS DESIRED, BUT SUBSCRIBERS SHOULD IN ALL CASES GIVE THEIR OLD AS WELL AS NEW ADDRESS.

☞CORRESPONDENCE.—CORRESPONDENCE IS SOLICITED FROM EVERY SECTION IN REGARD TO ALL GRAND ARMY, PENSION, MILITARY, AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND HOUSEHOLD MATTERS, AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WILL ALWAYS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION. WRITE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE,
615 FIFTEENTH ST., WASHINGTON, D. C.

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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 8, 1883.

The number of subscriptions to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE *received during the week ending Tuesday, March 6th, was* **9330.**

THE number of pension certificates issued and signed during the week ending March 8th, was as follows: Original, 678; increase, 117; re-issue, 34; restoration, 17; duplicate, 33; arrears, 0; accrued pensions, 52; total, 931.

WE MUST again remind our correspondents of the importance of writing their communications in a bold, legible hand. It frequently happens that the signatures to their letters are undecipherable, and in such cases their publication is, of course, out of the question. This statement will perhaps explain to some of our correspondents why their articles have received no attention.

RECIPIENTS of sample copies of THE TRIBUNE should endeavor to obtain at least one subscriber for every extra copy sent them. Show it to some comrade or neighbor or acquaintance, and call his attention to its merits. If he is a soldier or the friend of the soldier, he cannot fail to be interested in its contents and impressed with the value of the work which it is doing. Make it a personal matter to secure his subscription. In the extension of THE TRIBUNE'S circulation our readers are equally concerned with ourselves. The more numerous its subscribers, the greater will be its ability to promote the growth of the Grand Army, compel the recognition of the rights of the soldier by Congress, silence the hue and cry of a slanderous press, and advance the interests of our veterans generally. THE TRIBUNE ought to have at least one hundred thousand subscribers; if every reader who receives a sample copy will procure one new subscriber in return for it, that result will soon be accomplished. Don't waste your ammunition, therefore, but make every shot tell.

AS WILL be seen by reference to our report of Congressional proceedings, Commissioner Dudley has transmitted to the Senate, in compliance with Senator Beck's resolution, an alphabetical list of all pensioners on the rolls January 1st, 1883, and that the Senate has ordered the list printed. It will occupy about 4,500 pages of the same size as those of the *Congressional Record*, and the cost will be about $57,000! In all probability the list will not be printed until December next, in time to be laid before the Senate at the opening of the session, when, no doubt, Senator Beck will make another effort to secure the passage of his bill to post the list at every post-office and advertise it in the newspapers. When he comes to figure up the cost of the publication, however, he will find some difficulty, we imagine, in convincing his fellow Senators of the necessity of such an expenditure of the public money. If it costs $57,000 simply to print the names in a pamphlet form for the convenience of the Senate, what will it cost to print it in the advertising columns of the newspapers at twenty, thirty or forty cents per line? Mr. Beck is not the first statesman who has been floored by a simple sum in arithmetic.

THE refusal of the House to pass the bonded whisky bill, despite the desperate attempts of the lobby to compel action upon it in the closing hours of the session, will long be remembered to its credit. Had this measure became a law it would have robbed the Treasury of the interest on some eighty millions of dollars, and possibly of the principal itself, to the sole benefit of the distillers. Against the injustice of such a procedure THE TRIBUNE protested with all the ability at its command, and it is with no slight satisfaction that it records the failure of the bill. At the opening of the next session of Congress, we dare say, an attempt will be made to secure the repeal of the whisky tax itself, but our veterans have it in their power, between now and the first Monday in December, to array public sentiment so strongly against the movement that Congress will not dare to countenance it. Forewarned is forearmed, and now that our ex-soldiers know the character of the opposition with which they will have to contend, they should resolve to work persistently and unitedly for its overthrow.

The Adjournment of Congress.

The work of the Forty-seventh Congress is finished and the record of its labors is before the country. It unquestionably committed many grave blunders, but some of its acts will redound to the permanent benefit of the country. At its first session it enacted a river and harbor bill of such huge proportions that the people were constrained to carry their disapproval to the polls. At its second session, however, it put forth an earnest effort to regain public favor, and although it made the mistake of construing the result of the fall elections as a declaration in favor of a reduction of internal revenue taxation and tariff charges, it accomplished a good deal in the way of wholesome legislation. It passed the civil service bill, provided for a reduction of the postage on letters, disposed of the long pending question of the return of the Japanese indemnity fund, enlarged the usefulness of the Court of Claims, and took measures to prevent the adulteration of tea. It refused to pass the bonded whisky extension bill and a new river and harbor bill—both virtuous acts of omission. The total appropriations made at the first session amounted to $295,505,639; at the second session to but $229,327,511.36—a very considerable retrenchment, which will go far to balance the curtailment of the revenues involved in the operation of the tariff bill. As to the unwisdom of the last named measure we have spoken at length elsewhere, but there is this to be said in extenuation of its action that Congress was subjected to a heavy pressure from those who were anxious to have the internal revenue taxes abolished entirely, and in consenting only to a partial reduction it preserved to the Treasury at least half of its annual surplus. Indeed, if we were sure that no further reduction would be made in the near future, we should be disposed to accept the result with tranquility, since the revenues of the Government are still ample to meet the just demands of our ex-soldiers without affecting in the slightest degree the discharge of its usual obligations, and it is only the apprehension of what the next Congress may attempt in this direction that has occasioned us disquietude.

However, our ex-soldiers have carried their main point in the defeat of the attempt to abolish the taxes entirely and thereby wipe out every penny of the existing surplus, and it is now a question simply of maintaining their advantage. That they can do so, if they choose, does not admit of doubt, but it is essential that they should lose no time in getting their forces into line. The ability of THE TRIBUNE to lead them on to victory is only limited by the size of the army at its back. It has held its ground so far against superior numbers and in the face of overwhelming odds, but in the campaign that is opening it is necessary that it should have the support of every ex-soldier in the country. Its influence is directly dependent on its circulation; the larger that is the more potent THE TRIBUNE will be for the accomplishment of the great work which has been given it to do.

Home, Sweet Home.

"Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home," wrote John Howard Payne, himself a wanderer in foreign climes and destined to die in a strange land. If there is any class of citizens that more than another have reason to know and appreciate the meaning of these immortal lines, it is our ex-soldiers. It was to preserve their homes from invasion and desolation that they waged a four years' war with traitors. It was their deep-rooted love for the homes which they had left behind them that sustained them through all the trials and perils which that war involved. It was the hope of restoring to those homes the peace and happiness of other days, that inspired them to carry on the struggle to the end. What was it that the soldier talked of, thought of, dreamt of, wrote of, day after day, night after night, in camp, on the march, in the trenches, in the hospital, in the prison-pen, never wearying, never tiring of the theme? Was it not perpetually, always, "Home, sweet home"? What was it that he sighed for, prayed for, fought for, died for? Was it not "Home, sweet home." What was it that when days were long and nights dreary, when hope grew faint and the future cloudy, never failed to bring a smile to the soldier's face and a thrill of joy to his heart? Was it not a letter from home. Ah, those white-winged messengers of love and affection, that darted back and forth, like a shuttle, between camp and fireside, in those memorable days, spun ties of marvelous strength between the two, and did more to hold the soldier to his duty than all other influences put together.

And what of those who remained behind—the aged mother, the doting wife, the helpless children? What sacrifices did they not make to keep the hearth fires burning? The home of the soldier was a temple of patriotism in those days, but a temple where lint was picked instead of incense offered, where the votaries plied the needle instead of counting their beads. The historian has recorded in glowing language the achievements of those who risked their lives to preserve their homes, but where, alas, shall we look for the story of the sacrifices offered by those whose presence only made these homes worth fighting for? Theirs was the anguish of watching and waiting, and theirs the hard duty of cheering the heart of the soldier when their own hearts were breaking. For theirs was not always the happy home which the soldier saw in his dreams. How often was poverty an unbidden guest there when the soldier little knew it! How often Death crossed the threshold when he was unconscious of that hated presence! How often black Care brooded over the household when the soldier was powerless to combat it! If there is any class of women that more than another have reason to know and appreciate the truth of the saying "there's no place like home," it is the wives and the mothers of our soldiers.

Reunited long since—mothers and sons, wives and husbands, brothers and sisters, lovers and sweethearts—let us hope that they are realizing at last all the blessings which cluster around a happy home, "be it ever so humble." For home is, after all, where the heart is; and where the heart is, though friends be faithless and Governments ungrateful, there love and affection will never be lacking.

The End of a Long Contest.

The failure of the bill to increase the pensions of our one-armed and one-legged veterans to pass the Senate in its original form is much to be regretted, but as amended it unquestionably secures to them a modicum of the relief asked for, and that is more than at one time it seemed likely that they would receive. It is unnecessary at this late day to enter into any discussion of the causes that have operated to the prejudice of all soldiers' claims before the Congress that has just expired. It must have been apparent long ago to the readers of THE TRIBUNE that influences of an unusual character were being exerted to prevent any further recognition of the rights of our pensioners, and considering the persistence and maliciousness with which many of the leading newspapers of the country have circulated their false charges of fraud in the pension roll, it is really a cause for congratulation that any action whatever was taken by Congress on the bill in question. But for the earnestness with which the various Posts of the Grand Army memorialized the Senate, the urgent representations of the Grand Army Pension Committee, two members of which—Past Commander-in-Chief Merrill and Surgeon-General Ames—appeared in person before the Senate Committee, and the substantial support afforded by THE TRIBUNE, it is doubtful, to say the least, whether a vote would ever have been reached on the measure. As it was, as our readers can see for themselves, it was only after the Senate had spent a whole day and the better part of a night in discussion and the amendments offered by the enemies of the bill with a view to killing it in the House had one after the other been voted down, that decisive action was finally taken.

We are thus particular in showing the uncertainty which up to the last moment hung about the passage of the measure in any form, because we do not wish any of our ex-soldiers to imagine that the partial triumph which they have scored over the opposition was a matter of accident or chance. It was, on the contrary, the result of the hardest sort of work, and the lesson which it teaches is that our veterans must hereafter rely upon the potentiality of their own efforts rather than upon the passive good-will of legislators to secure the full recognition of their claims. We do not propose to indulge in idle recriminations, but it is very evident from the sentiment developed in the Senate during the debate on the Forty-Dollar bill that the poison so carefully instilled into the public mind by the anti-soldier press is doing its work, and that belief in the existence of extensive pension frauds has warped the judgment of many who hitherto have always been found on the side of the soldier. From this time henceforth the influence of our veterans should be exercised collectively and individually to combat this belief, and they cannot make a better beginning than by withdrawing their support from all newspapers and politicians that misrepresent them and transferring it to journals and statesmen whose integrity and fidelity is undoubted. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE proposes to fight it out on that line, and our ex-soldiers should follow where it leads.

A Chance for Barnum.

"Barnum has outdone himself—Forepaugh's ten-thousand-dollar beauty nowhere! He has secured, at great expense, and will exhibit this season, a soldier who served through the war and did not contract any disability or discover one afterwards. He is supposed to be the only one living. He will be exhibited for a few days only—in the House and Senate and War Office."

This coarse attempt at wit emanates from the Cape Ann (Mass.) *Advertiser*, a newspaper which is in a fair way to secure for itself an unenviable notoriety. It really merits no notice at our hands, yet it seems a pity that a gentleman so famous for astuteness as Mr. Barnum should be thus wantonly slandered. Mr. Barnum has had too long an experience as a showman to be guilty of such an error of judgment as the *Advertiser* attributes to him, and there are a thousand curiosities which he would be more likely to select for exhibition than the one in question. There is, for instance, the editor who, twenty years ago, wrote flaming articles on the duty of the hour, and appealed to his fellow-citizens to take up arms in defense of the Union, and now, when the Union has been preserved and the men who saved it are crippled and destitute, brands them as paupers and beggars! If Mr. Barnum is in need of a new attraction, here is one that would draw immensely. Let a cage be buit expressly for him. Let it be ornamented after the manner of those containing other wild beasts, with the name and species of the monster, and pictures illustrating his haunts and habits. We venture to say that every soldier in the land would be willing to pay fifty cents for the privilege of obtaining a good view of such a curiosity. We can imagine with what eagerness they would hobble up to the cage, and with what a multitude of questions ply the keeper! "Where did you catch him? Cape Ann, Massachusetts? Impossible! Why, I belonged to a company that was raised there. You don't tell me that this fellow has dared to call us frauds and beggars? Well! well! And he stayed at home, the coward, did he? And he never even smelt gunpowder, or heard the whiz of a bullet, or felt the surgeon's knife, or marched all day through the mud, or waded a river, or bivouacked in the snow, or starved in prison? What do you call him, keeper? An ingrate, did you say? What's that—a man? No, I thought not. Stir him up a little—I want to hear him whine. Ah, it's like a faint echo of the 'rebel yell.' But what do these figures on the side of the cage mean, keeper? What he was worth before the war and what he is worth now? Why, I only got thirteen dollars a month while I was in the army and lost my leg in the bargain. Called us frauds and beggars, did he? Well, well, keeper, this is the 'greatest show on earth,' and no mistake. Buy his photograph? That I will. It'll just do to match that picture of Jeff Davis in my wife's album. We kind of hated to stick anybody's photograph alongside of his, but it seems there's a pair of them, and, if anything, I think he's a little the worse of the two. Move on? All right, keeper, I'll let the rest of the boys have a chance. But mind, you keep a sharp eye on him. I'd sooner trust a tiger than an ingrate."

If Mr. Barnum wants a new attraction, the editor of the Cape Ann *Advertiser* is certainly his man.

A Great Educational Problem.

Among the more important measures which failed of action by the Forty-seventh Congress was the bill introduced by Representative Sherwin, of Illinois, to appropriate annually, out of the funds in the United States Treasury, for five successive years, ten millions of dollars, to aid in the support of free common schools, the money so appropriated to be divided among the several States and Territories in proportion to the illiteracy of their inhabitants, but with the limitation that no State or Territory shall receive a greater sum than that appropriated out of its own revenue for school purposes. Whether or not the bill in its original form was calculated to accomplish the desired object is perhaps an open question, but inasmuch as the propriety of the General Government engaging directly in the work of education, hitherto confined to States and municipalities, is likely to be a leading issue in the next Congress, it may not be unprofitable to consider briefly the causes which have led to the agitation of this subject.

The starting point appears to have been the fact disclosed by the last census, that notwithstanding the vast sums that have been expended in the support of our common-school system one-eight of the people of the United States are totally illiterate, and seventeen per cent. of all persons over ten years of age do not know how to write. Taking this fact as the basis of inquiry, it appears that the high average of illiteracy is almost wholly due to the preponderance of ignorance in the southern States. All the northern and western States show a percentage of illiteracy below the general average, and the percentage in the border States is only slightly above it, while forty per cent. of all classes, white and black, in the old slave States—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia—are illiterates. Excluding the white population, the degree of illiteracy in these States is still greater, ranging from seventy to eighty per cent., while the showing in Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, and Kentucky is but little if any better. Out of a colored population, over ten years old, of 3,447,174 in these twelve States, 2,951,662 are illiterate; and out of a total population of 9,991,162 blacks and whites, over ten years of age, 4,338,204 are illiterate. To show the bearing which this prevalence of illiteracy in the South has upon the interests of the Nation at large, it is only necessary to say that 1,354,974 voters, or nearly thirty-three per cent. of the entire voting population, are unable to read the ballots which they deposit. As Representative Sherwin says, the question is in this phase one of national importance, since when men come up and deposit their ballots for Presidential electors it affects Illinois as much as South Carolina if the ballot is not intelligent and honest.

Granting all this—and the facts cannot be disputed—the question arises whether it is the fault of the States themselves or the General Government that there is such a dangerous preponderance of illiteracy in the South. Statistics tend to prove that, contrary to general belief, the States themselves, in proportion to their means, have done all that can reasonably be expected of them for the support of public schools. Thus, while New Jersey, with nearly the same population as Alabama, spends more than five times as much as the latter for school purposes, the latter's taxable basis is only one-fifth as large as the former's. In proportion to her means, Alabama, therefore, does as much as New Jersey to educate her illiterates. To ask her to do more is neither just nor reasonable. Yet the fact remains that the amount which Alabama and her sister States devote to the support of schools is totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the prevailing illiteracy, and the alternative is presented to the Government of permitting this illiteracy, with all its attendant dangers, to go on unchecked, or of helping the South to rid itself of the incubus. It is contended on the one hand that education is the business of the State and not of the general Government, and that the effect of extending National aid to the common schools of the South will simply be to remove the incentive to self-exertion on the part of the South; but, on the other hand, it is urged that in emancipating the slaves the general Government imposed a greater educational burden upon the South than it could fairly be expected to bear, and that it should now take part of the burden on its own shoulders, if not as a matter of equity, at least from considerations of self-interest. This is the issue as it is presented to the country to-day, and that it is one of the highest importance no person of intelligence is likely to deny. Upon its decision may depend, for aught anybody can now foresee, the preservation of our republican form of government, for the intelligent use of the ballot is, after all, the chief bulwark of the Republic.

Not as Bad as it Might Be.

The passage by Congress on the very last day of the session, and almost without discussion, of the tariff and internal revenue bill can only be explained on the supposition that it was a political necessity. The bill itself was not thoroughly acceptable to either party. Protectionists and Free Traders were both divided in sentiment as to the equity of its provisions, and, although the vote by which it was adopted was mainly a party one, it was not exclusively so. A number of Democrats voted with the majority, and several Republicans were recorded with the minority. Indeed, it may be said with truth that the vote as taken was not a vote on the merits of the bill itself, but on the naked question of whether or not any action whatever on the subject of the tariff and the revenue should be taken by the expiring Congress. But for the fact that the Democrats will have a majority in the next Congress, the Republicans would doubtless have permitted the measure to go over without action. It was the apprehension that in that event the Free Traders would control the revision of the tariff and seriously impair, if not entirely eliminate its protective features, that led them to compromise their differences and give a formal support to what was admittedly a hastily contrived and defective measure. This was unquestionably the dominating reason for their action, but it was not the only one. With the question of tariff revision was bound up the question of internal revenue reduction, and it was the opinion—an erroneous one, as we believe—of the Republican leaders that to adjourn without making some provision for the reduction of the internal revenue taxes would create public dissatisfaction and imperil the future of the party. That they should have held to that belief is not surprising, considering the gross misrepresentation of the state of popular feeling that the newspaper press has been guilty of during the past few months, although, as we have frequently pointed out, the question has never been made an issue at the polls.

But explanations of this sort are not calculated either to justify or excuse. The fact remains that by the passage of the tariff bill Congress has very materially reduced the revenues of the Government, and to that extent impaired the chances of a fuller recognition of the soldiers' claims by its successor. The exact extent of the mischief which has been done cannot as yet be accurately estimated. According to the published estimates, the decrease of revenue resulting from the abatement of internal revenue taxes will be in the neighborhood of $35,000,000 yearly, and the loss by the reduction of duties will bring the total up to $70,000,000. It is possible, however, that the modification of the tariff will have the effect of stimulating importation, and in that event the net loss to the Treasury will be somewhat less than this. As it is, however, $70,000,000 is an immense revenue to be cut off at a single stroke, and the worst of it is that at least half of it will go into the pockets of monopolists and not benefit the general public in the least. It will be a rich plum for the patent medicine proprietors, for instance, but consumers of patent medicines will be none the better off.

It is an old saying, however, that things are never so bad but that they might be worse, and we perhaps should be thankful that the revenue taxes were not wiped out entirely, as the more rabid enemies of the soldier desired. The receipts of the Government will still be some seventy millions in excess of ordinary expenditures, and so long as this surplus exists the poverty of the Treasury cannot decently be urged as a pretext for ignoring the demands of our ex-soldiers. The Government can still "afford"—to use the favorite term of those who look upon pensions and bounties as mere gratuities and refuse to recognize the existence of any binding contract with the soldier—to equalize the bounties and make suitable provision for the maintenance of those who suffered martyrdom in Southern prisons, and whether it is compelled to do so or not depends upon the determination, the persistence, and the concert of action with which our veterans prosecute their claims. A great battle remains to be fought, but victory is certain if they will but stand shoulder to shoulder with THE TRIBUNE in the struggle.

American Farms.

According to the last census, the number of farms in the United States is 4,008,907. The comparative smallness of these farms furnishes the key-note to our unexampled agricultural prosperity. Of the whole number, 2,208,374, or more than one-half, are under 100 acres; 1,695,983 of the remainder are less than 500 acres; 75,972 exceed 500 acres, but not 1,000 acres; and only 28,578 are 1,000 or more acres in extent.

There are several reasons which might be cited to prove the assertion that the size of farms in this country has a direct bearing on its agricultural prosperity. The first of these is that the smaller the farm the more productive, proportionately, it is apt to be. A farmer may be land poor in more senses than one, but never so truly land poor as when he has more acres than he has the means to cultivate. The smaller the farm the more likely it is to be thoroughly tilled and its resources fully developed.

The second reason is that the smaller the farm the more certain and constant is sure to be its cultivation. The curse of England to-day is the vastness of the landed estates of her nobility, against the partition of which the law of entail operates as a permanent restraint. So long as a large percentage of the lands suitable for agriculture are thus locked up, her dependence upon other Nations for food supplies must steadily increase. In the United States, on the other hand, there is no bar to the acquisition of land by the small farmer, and as a consequence our agricultural development keeps pace with the growth of population.

In this connection it may be of interest to inquire in what section of the country large farms predominate. At first thought one might be inclined to reply: "In the West;" but such is not the case. The census returns show that large farms are more numerous in the South than anywhere else. The State of Georgia leads with 902 farms of 1,000 acres and over, Alabama has 696, Virginia 641, South Carolina 482, Mississippi 481, Louisiana 371, and North Carolina 311. Illinois has but 194. It would be more correct, however, to speak of the Southern farms as "plantations," and their large size is a relic of labor system under which they were formerly operated. But even in the South the benefits resulting from small farming are becoming manifest, and the division of the old, unwieldy plantations is going forward at a rapid rate. That it is not more rapid is due simply to the fact that white immigration still shuns the South. The blacks, dependent as they are upon their own labor to acquire the means necessary to buy land for themselves, have not been able to effect as sweeping changes in the system of farming as would have been brought about had immigrants from the old world over-run the South as they have the West since the close of the rebellion. But the outlook, is, nevertheless, encouraging, and the time is not far distant when the agricultural resources of the South will be as fully developed as those of the North and West. The old planter aristocracy is bound to wane and disappear before the steady advance of the horny-handed sons of toil.

Flour Man Gridley.

There is no brighter page in history than that which records the work of the Sanitary Commission twenty years ago. Its labors contributed indirectly, if not directly, to the success of our arms, and if they did not avail to strip war of its horrors, they, at least, alleviated many of its pangs. The patriotism of those who, for various causes, other than personal cowardice or positive disloyalty, remained at home during the rebellion, found a practical outlet in the work of the Sanitary Commission, and although the men who founded it and carried it forward to the height of its usefulness have passed almost entirely from public remembrance, they are as deserving of a monument as those who perished on the field of battle. There were many interesting incidents in the history of the commission, but none, perhaps, more romantic than one which the Grand Army has recently undertaken to commemorate in a substantial and enduring form. We refer to the exploit of R. C. Gridley—"Flour Man Gridley," as he came to be known—who sold and resold a sack of flour from one end of the country to the other, until it netted the Sanitary Commission the magnificent sum of $275,000.

This is the story: Gridley, who was a merchant at Austin, Nevada, and a Democrat in politics, made a wager with one of his fellow citizens, a Republican, on the issue of the local election, the loser to carry a fifty-pound sack of flour on his shoulder through the streets of the town. As it happened, Gridley lost, but he displayed so much pluck and good temper in paying the forfeit, that his march through the town became a tour of triumph, and at its close, in a moment of enthusiasm, he put up the sack of flour at auction and ran the price up to $300, at which he bought it in. He then put it up for the second time, but with the understanding that the purchaser should donate it to the Sanitary Commission, to be again resold. The excitement grew, the idea took like wildfire, and the news of what had occurred at Austin having been telegraphed away, what might otherwise have remained a mere local episode, became an event of national interest. Gridley with his flour sack started for the East, and his coming was awaited everywhere with eagerness. That sack of flour was put up, knocked down, put up again, and again resold, in every great city of the Union, until, as we have said, it netted the Sanitary Commission $275,000 in hard cash. It made Gridley famous, but it ruined him absolutely in pocket and in health. It was Gridley's life rather than the sack of flour which brought $275,000. He returned home only to find his business gone to pieces and his health shattered. He died afterwards at Stockton, Cal., in comparative obscurity and absolute poverty, and nothing but a plain head-board now marks his last resting place. That is Gridley's story—short, but sublime in its lessons for all Americans.

The Grand Army, as we have said, now propose to commemorate his services by the erection of a monument over his grave. Rollins Post, No. 23, of Stockton, Cal., is the pioneer in the movement, and at the last annual Encampment of the Department of California, the enterprise was heartily indorsed and the co-operation of all other Departments earnestly invited. A pamphlet has been prepared containing a sketch of Gridley's life, and is for sale at the headquarters of the Department of California, at San Francisco, at twenty-five cents per copy, the profits, should there be any, to be devoted to the monument fund. The movement has our hearty indorsement and we trust every Post in every department of the Grand Army will contribute something towards the erection of a monument to that citizen-patriot—"Flour Man Gridley."

IN another column of THE TRIBUNE, this week, will be found a sketch of the origin and growth of the Grand Army, written by Commander Stimson, of the Department of Colorado, for the *Grand Army Magazine*. The main facts originally appeared in THE TRIBUNE, but our subscribers have multiplied so rapidly since the date of the first publication, that to many of them the subject of the reprint will be entirely new. So far as the leading incidents are concerned, we believe this story of the birth of the Grand Army is entirely authentic, and to Doctor Stephenson the credit is unquestionably due of having founded the Order. It is to-day essentially what he created it, and what it is to-day we trust it will continue to be. The basis of fraternity, charity, and loyalty is broad enough to support in security the magnificent structure which has been reared upon it, and so long as these principles are rigidly adhered to there is no danger that it will be undermined. It may be that at some future time politicians will again seek to control the Order, but they are not likely to be again successful. The tendency is decidedly in the other direction. Party passions are powerless now to sway the opinions of our comrades, and the question which is most apt to rise to their lips when their suffrages are solicited for this or that candidate, is the simple query: "Is he a friend of the soldier?"

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The last issue of *The International Review* is a double number, containing the numbers for February and March, and it appears under new editorial management—that of William Ralston Balch. According to the announcement, it is intended to make it the leading publication of its kind in the United States. In consonance with this intention and the change in management the publication day hereafter will be the 15th of each month for the month following. The number before us contains a full quota of able and well considered papers, among which are: "Protection to American Art," by Thos. Donaldson; "The Social Reconstruction of England," H. M. Hyndman; "Admission of Women to Universities," Florence Kelley; "Decline of the French Premiership," I—N. Ford; "Trial by Jury," C. S. Patterson; "Our Future Banking System," A. S. Bolles; "The Divine Law of Divorce," Ewd. Quiney, Jr.; Poor Pay and No Pensions," F. D. Y. Carpenter; "Our Land-grant Railways in Congress," George W. Julian, and "The Story and Meaning of the New York Election," Duncan C. McMillan.

A special edition of the *Baltimore and Ohio Red Book*, under the title "How 'Twas Done," has recently been issued by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. It treats of the political revolution of 1882, and contains the official returns of the vote in eleven States, with the returns of the preceding election, arranged in comparative tables, in a remarkably clear and concise form. The presidential vote of the States by counties for 1876 and 1880 is also given, besides much other valuable information relative to the politics of the country. It is a work of 117 pages, neatly printed on fine paper, and with a handsome illuminated cover. Mr. Joseph G. Pangborn, the efficient Assistant General Passenger Agent of the railroad, is its author. No charge is made for the book, and it will be forwarded, by mail to all who apply to Mr. C. K. Lord, General Passenger Agent, Baltimore, Md. Mention THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

A unique and useful almanac is *St. Jacobs Oil Family Calendar for 1883-'4*, for, besides containing much valuable information, we have seldom found a book in which is condensed so much original wit and humor. Among the articles will be found copyrighted contributions from such noted humorists as M Quad, Detroit *Free Press;* Spoopendyke, of the Brooklyn *Eagle;* George W. Peck, A. Miner Griswold, Bill Nye, the editors of *Texas Siftings;* "The Danbury *News* man," Uncle Remus, as also the wits of *Puck*, The *Judge*, Lowell *Citizen*, Boston *Post*, the San Francisco *Wasp*, and other papers. The illustrations are also by the best artists and are exceedingly amusing. Perhaps never before has so expensive a work been gratuitously distributed.

OPINIONS WORTH READING

What Our Cotemporaries Have to Say of The National Tribune.

It is Making a Gallant Fight.

[*Wood County (Wis.) Reporter.*]

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, published at Washington, is one of the ablest defenders of our soldiers and their rights. It has grown from a small monthly publication in 1877 to a seven column quarto weekly in 1883, and contains the choicest reading matter of the day. It is making a most gallant fight for soldiers' rights and in defending the laws granting pensions and back pay and bounty due them against the encroachments being made on such laws by the Eastern shylock press. It is sent for the small price of $1 per year, and should be in the hands of every Union soldier. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE should have an agent in Wood County Post.

First Class in Every Particular.

[*East St. Louis (Ills.) Weekly Signal.*]

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, of Washington, D. C., has enlarged from forty-eight to fifty-six columns, and is printed from its new Scott web perfecting press, built expressly for its use by C. Potter, Jr., of New York. It now circulates in every State and Territory of the Union, and has subscribers at nearly eleven thousand post-offices. It is, without doubt, the best paper of its class in the country, and is a power in furthering the interests of ex-soldiers. No man who served in either the Union or Confederate army should be without it. It is first class in every particular.

A Live and Readable Paper.

[*Mahanoy (Pa.) Tribune.*]

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, published at Washington, D. C., has been enlarged from forty-eight to fifty-six columns. Although containing a variety of general news, this paper is largely devoted to the interests of Grand Army and pension matters, and the publication of interesting reminiscences of the war. It circulates in every State and Territory of the Union, and has subscribers at nearly 11,000 post-offices. It is a live and readable paper, and to those who have been soldiers it is probably the most useful and interesting published in the country.

An Unmistakable Evidence of Prosperity.

[*The Worker—Tunkhannock, Pa.*]

As an unmistakable evidence of prosperity this grand soldier's paper comes to us this week enlarged from forty-eight to fifty-six columns, and printed on its new Scott web perfecting press, built expressly for its use by C. Potter & Co., of New York. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE now circulates in every State and Territory of the Union, and has subscribers at nearly eleven thousand post-offices. It is *the* soldier's paper. Subscription price, $1.00. Send for sample copy to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

Yes, It Has Come to Stay.

[*Hillsboro (Kan.) Express.*]

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, published at Washington, D. C., comes to us enlarged from a forty-eight to a fifty-six column paper, and is printed on their new Scott web perfecting press. It is the friend of the soldier, and has a large circulation in every State and Territory in the Union. We congratulate the managers of THE TRIBUNE upon their success, and hope they may long continue in their field of labor.

The Soldier's Favorite Paper.

[*Clay County (Neb.) Journal.*]

The soldier's favorite paper, THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, comes to us enlarged from forty-eight to fifty-six columns, and is printed on a new press, built expressly for it. THE TRIBUNE circulates in every State and Territory where there is an ex-soldier, and is an excellent newspaper.

A Long-Lived Family.

A correspondent of THE TRIBUNE writes: There is in this State a baby who, when nine months old, had two great-great-grandmothers and one great-great-grandfather; three great-grandmothers and two great-grandfathers; two grandmothers and two grandfathers, also father and mother living, aged twenty-two and twenty-one years respectively. At the time of its birth both great-grandmother and grandmother, on the mother's side, were teaching in the public schools, neither one having a noticeable grey hair. In October last, five generations met at the home of the maternal great-grandfather and mother. The oldest of the five, though over eighty-three years old, was able to enjoy the reunion quite as well as anyone else.